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preparation a monograph in which she will "present a study of women in ancient Mexico, with special reference to the present codex."

As the reviewer is a tyro in the study of Mexican pictography his judgment of the value of the interpretations given in the introduction to the codex has little weight, but he feels competent to give expression to the great importance of the discovery of this codex. In searching it out and bringing it to the attention of students Mrs Nuttall has made a most important contribution to science. To those who, by their generosity, enabled the Peabody Museum to publish the codex, students of American pictography owe a great debt of gratitude.

J. WALTER FEWKES.

*Horn and Bone Implements of the New York Indians.* By WILLIAM M. BEAUCHAMP. (Bulletin of the New York State Museum, No. 50.) Albany: University of the State of New York, 1902. 100 pp., ills., 8°.

This is a valuable contribution to the archeology of New York and of general interest to all students of American archeology. The specimens illustrated cover a wide field, and will furnish material for comparison with similar objects found elsewhere.

The figures on the forty-three plates, three hundred and sixty-one in all, are unfortunately badly printed; they are consequently flat and give little assistance to the general reader who aims at an understanding of the objects illustrated; and although the outlines are fairly well drawn, there is much room for improvement, and more careful reference to the size of the objects illustrated would have added to the value of the bulletin.

In the text, consisting of one hundred pages, the descriptions of the figures are good, and the comments as to their uses are always interesting, owing to the author's thorough familiarity with the subject. To follow, however, the text references to figures with the plates is difficult, owing to the fact that the figures referred to on a single page are often scattered through several plates. This is especially the case with "Awls and Knives." It would have been better, if possible, to have kept figures of similar types together, as has been done with those of the fish-hooks and combs.

An excellent feature of the bulletin is the "explanation of plates," in which, on the same line, is given the number of the object, its intended use, and the text page on which reference is made to it, so that any given specimen may be taken on a plate, and by its page reference the author's views are readily learned.

To say that "it has been strangely overlooked that thorns are natural awls and needles, and that hardwood knots preceded the stone-headed war-clubs, that pointed sticks were the first fish-spears, and that arrows made entirely of wood were and still are used by some Indians of this land" suggests an oversight on the author's part, for what he says has been "strangely overlooked" is rather, one should say, an accepted theory, and has been referred to by many writers, both here and abroad. Although the Eskimo arrow-flaker "preceded the stone which formed it into shape," it should always be remembered that a flaking tool of stone, acting by free-hand percussion, probably long preceded the bone flaker, which is usually an implement of two or more parts, as, for example, its point and handle, as against the plain spheroidal stone hammer of a more primitive period, although it cannot be denied that the so-called "baton of command" of the earliest French caves, whatever its real purpose, would have made a most excellent chipper, being almost always made of deer horn.

In his preface to the bulletin Mr Beauchamp refers to the interpretation of symbols on wampum belts and apparently adds another, to use his own expression, to "the doubtful opinions which have been founded on them." To say that one has satisfactorily read a belt would give the impression that the ideograph on the belt was constant, whereas a belt used on one occasion for a given purpose would the following day possibly be employed in an entirely different manner and for another purpose. The speech conveyed by a belt was learned, there is little doubt, after the belt was made, but a different speech or purpose, such for example as that it should answer as a gauge, or for a debt, would on another occasion be employed with the same belt.

Mr Beauchamp correctly attributes most of these bone and horn implements to a period not more than two or three hundred years ago, and explains the absence of bones to the gnawing of small animals, though many of the forms illustrated are much like objects found in the oldest layers of European caves associated with extinct fauna.

JOSEPH D. MCGUIRE.

*The Hieroglyphic Stairway. Ruins of Copan. Report on Explorations by the Museum.* By GEORGE BYRON GORDON. (Memoirs of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Vol. I, No. 6.) Cambridge: Published by the Museum, 1902. 38 pp., 18 pl., 4°.

One of the great pyramidal structures of the ruins of Copan, Honduras, is adorned with a so-called "hieroglyphic stairway," evidently